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THE FISHERIES COMMISSION.

In the next number of the

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS

will appear the portraits of all the members of the Fisheries Commission at present sitting at Halifax.

NOTICE.

Persons spending the summer

AT THE SEASIDE

or in the country, far from the noise and distractions of great cities, can find no better recreation than the reading of the

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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, June 16th, 1877.

THE QUESTION OF THE FISHERIES.

This week, the Commission of Arbitration in the Fisheries dispute between the United States and Canada, met at Halifax for the despatch of business. This Commission was instituted by a clause of the Treaty of Washington under the following circumstances, which it may be well to recall to our readers. The eighteenth article of that instrument provided that in addition to the liberty secured to the fishermen of the United States by the treaty of 1818, they should have for a term of twelve years the right, in common with British subjects, to take any fish, except shell-fish, on the coasts and in the bays of the Maritime Provinces and islands, without being restricted to any distance from the shore, with permission to land to dry their nets and cure their fish, this liberty applying solely to the sea-fishery. The nineteenth article guaranteed a like liberty to British subjects on eastern American coasts north of 39 degrees. The twentieth declared that the places reserved under the treaty of 1854 from the common rights of fishing should continue so to be reserved. The twenty-first provided that Canada and the United States should reciprocally admit free of duty fish and fish-oil the product of their fisheries, except fish from rivers and inland lakes and preserved in oil. The twenty-second article provided that as it was claimed by Canada that

they gave under article 18 more than they got under 19 and 21, a claim not admitted by the United States, a Commission should be appointed to decide what compensation, if any, should be paid by the United States, such compensation to be paid in bulk within a year after the award. It is this Commission which has just met at Halifax.

It is much too early to enter into the details of the controversy, which is a complex and delicate one. It will be altogether better to follow in this respect, rather than precede the work of the Commission itself. It may be said generally, however, as an outline of the case, that the Dominion, for the stipulated twelve years may justly present a pretty heavy bill based on the following items:—Use of fisheries: right to purchase bait and supplies and land and tranship cargoes; right to navigate the Strait of Canso; right of fishing in bays, creeks, and harbours; competition of Americans, who are better equipped, with Canadian fishermen. The total cannot well be less than ten millions of dollars, while it may rise to twenty-five millions.

On the other hand, the Americans have their case ready. Indeed, considering all that we have seen, they are prepared to dispute every inch of the ground. The first argument is that they have given Canada a free market in return for a free fishing ground, and that the result is in their favor. Thus while their own fisheries have not materially increased since the signing of the Treaty of Washington, the Canadian fisheries have steadily increased in value in the face of the competition of American fishermen, as the following table shows:—

1870.....	\$6,577,392	1873.....	\$10,754,098
1871.....	2,455,523	1874.....	11,681,196
1872.....	8,797,892	1876.....	11,013,451

At the same time the United States claim that under the treaty their markets have taken more Canadian fish than ever, the following table showing the exports from this country to American ports:—

1870.....	\$1,162,407	1874.....	\$1,304,363
1871.....	2,1175	1875.....	2,467,611
1872.....	1,392,536	1876.....	1,475,337
1873.....	1,619,321		

Meanwhile the Commission is composed of able representative men from England, the United States and Canada, and as they are pledged to "a solemn declaration that they will impartially and carefully examine and decide matters referred to them to the best of their judgment and according to justice and equity," we may rely upon having full justice done to all parties. In our next number we hope to be able to present the portraits of all the gentlemen engaged on the Commission.

CANADA AT THE CENTENNIAL.

The report of the Canadian Commission at the Philadelphia Exhibition is a bulky volume, but considering the precious information which it contains, we cannot forego the labor of summarizing it for the benefit of our readers.

There are, of course, a number of branches of human art in which a country so young as ours cannot hope to compete with the older nations of the world. This is especially the case with painting, sculpture and ornamental industries of various descriptions. Comparatively few of these adorned the Canadian department. It may, however, be said that in photography the specimens exhibited by our artists were not inferior to any. In painting, our display was creditable, and in sculpture, for purposes of house decoration, our department contained what was universally acknowledged as the finest piece of workmanship in the building. The prizes taken in the Departments representing the Fine Arts were six in number.

It was in manufactures of articles of prime necessity that Canada was likely chiefly to excel, and in these she took high rank among other manufacturing nationalities. In leather of all descriptions, including the finer classes; in boots and shoes, in tweeds and knitted goods,

and domestic cottons, in stoves, tools of all kinds, printed books, and similar articles, she compared favourably with any other nationality. In woollens of all kinds shown by her, it was acknowledged frankly by competitors from various parts of the world that she took the first place, though, of course, she did not show broad-cloths, nor other goods of very finest make. She made no great display of cottons; but the few goods in this class were very excellent. In the same way it may be affirmed that her edge tools were second to none. In our machinery department the display was comparatively small, notwithstanding which some of the machine tools exhibited were spoken of by experienced and practical men as being of high value, not only on account of the excellence of their finish and the solidity of the parts, but for the novelty of their construction and ingenuity of the contrivances brought to bear in adapting them to their several purposes.

The exhibit of grains was exceedingly satisfactory, and the qualities of many of them were pronounced by good judges to be of the very highest order. In fruit the Dominion occupied a place very much larger than would be her fair share, judging by geographical proportions and her population, compared with that of the United States. So far as the Commissioners were able to form a judgment, they believe that, excepting in grapes, in the growth of which California far exceeds any other part of the North American Continent, she could find nothing to excite her envy. The Californian fruits were very much larger than those from the Dominion, or indeed from any other places, but they lost in favour the advantage which they might be supposed to have in size. A remark something similar applies with truth to one or two Western States, but in general the apples, pears and plums of Canada were equal in appearance and size to those of the United States, and sometimes superior in flavour.

In dairy products, notwithstanding the high reputation of the American cheese manufacturers, those from Canada established conclusively that they are not one whit behind the best of their Southern competitors in the quality of their products. The Canadian dairymen certainly show superior energy, it being a remarkable fact that there was more Canadian than American cheese appeared in the Dairy House—2,086 packages were exhibited, weighing 55½ tons; there were from the United States 1,012 packages, weighing over 26 tons; from Canada, 1,003 packages, weighing over 29 tons; from other countries, 65 packages, estimated at 500 lbs. One hundred awards were recommended for exhibits of cheese. Of these 45 were for the United States, 49 for Canada, and the remainder for other countries. In butter our exhibit was small, reaching only to some 1,700 lbs. out of 9,150 lbs. from all countries; but in proportion to their number, the prizes taken by Canadian butter-makers were very numerous.

Of all departments, however, Canada most excelled in the exhibition of live stock. About one third of all the horses exhibited came from the Dominion, and out of 60, 52 carried off prizes. Of horned cattle the number of exhibits was 72, and the number of prizes 33.

The number of Centennial medals taken by Canadian exhibitors was 564 in all, which shows a large percentage upon Canadian exhibits as compared with the percentage of prizes on the aggregate of the world's exhibits at Philadelphia.

Taken throughout, we agree with the Commissioners that "there can be no doubt that the Exhibition at Philadelphia has had the effect of enhancing the feeling of self-respect and patriotism of many thousands of Canadians who visited it, and who saw that, except in some special classes of production, sometimes depending wholly upon the climate or other accidental circumstances, Canadian industries were in no respect behind those so

much vaunted in the United States." We may add this tribute of General Hawley, President of the Centennial Commission, who declared that "Canada had done more for the success of the Centennial Exhibition than any eight of the States of the American Union, with the exception of New Jersey and Pennsylvania."

THE HOTEL OF THE FUTURE.

Railways, steamships and hotels are cosmopolitan, and a common interest of civilized peoples, perhaps one day to be a common concern also. The era of diplomatic notes has not yet arrived which should have for their substance the condition of railway fences, level crossings or station police in a friendly country, deeply as changes might be needed, and helplessly as travellers might complain. There might be fears of giving offence, and the fears might be just enough from an international point of view in the present state of the popular sentiment. Still life is dear, and greatly involved in the affections. Common sense does keep pushing on its modes of action like a plough through a rugged soil. We look coolly at things sometimes, in spite of the telegrams, and then we may find ourselves admitting that with relations the more or the less intimate, any State will be doing wisest public service in improving these three great adjuncts to civilization within its own borders, and so enabling itself to promote intertribal intercourse with a good conscience as well as with happy results.

If the new Windsor Hotel in Montreal should really desire to make of itself one of the most popular places of entertainment of the Dominion or the continent, and fill a great want, it will endeavour to secure the fire-proof quality in its construction so as to allay the fears of travellers, and to avoid the actual catastrophe which is worse than any fears. In that case one might almost guarantee it a custom of the highest and best. Some of the suggestions for fire-escapes as applied to hotels and buildings of many stories which have appeared of late have been very defective. Neither hand-lines nor iron steps from one balcony to another will protect the fugitive from flames bursting forth from the windows close adjacent to his descent. Of course these precautions might prove infinitely better than nothing at all, but then that is hardly the point. We wish to afford security, and in a large building not fire-proof in construction, a safe descent could hardly be obtained in any other way than by brick or stone towers, with special staircases of iron from the highest to the lowest floors. It is just as well to admit the general idea, as to advocate plans which are more worthy of the ingenuity of Indians. Such towers as we speak of are now being adapted in new buildings of an institutional character. For a large hotel, one such tower would generally perhaps be insufficient. A tower or shaft might be built in the centre, with covered outlet on the basement, or one at any or all of the four corners of the buildings. If hotels will only adopt such fire-proof principles in construction as were advocated in our last issue, or even more complete ones—most especially the flooring tiles—though we could not consider the need of safety towers would be done away with, the immediate risk of fire would be brought down to a greatly lower grade, and, which is a very important item in all large buildings, the insurance premium also.

THE FIRST DECADE OF CONFEDERATION.

With the exception of an allegorical sketch in a recent number of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS, and of a letter in the Star, followed by eloquent words of approval from the editor, we have seen nothing in the press either of this city or elsewhere to remind the public that we are fast approaching the tenth anniversary